

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/705,055

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI, HIROYUKI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/2/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5, 13-16, 18-20, 28-31, 33-35, 43-45; renumbered as 1-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

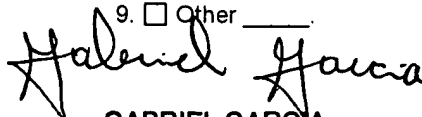
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: response to restriction filed on 6/2/05.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1, 3-5, 13-16, 18-20, 28-31, 33-35, 43-45, in the reply filed on 6/2/05 is acknowledged.

A telephone call was made to Lyle Kimms on 7/14/05 to confirm election without traverse, and Mr. Kimms also agreed to cancel non-elected claims 6-12, 21-27, 36-42, 46, 48-67.

Response to Arguments

- Responsive to the objections of specification (including both Title and Abstract) has been considered and persuasive. The objections have been withdrawn.
- Applicant's arguments, see pages 34-35, filed 11/19/05, with respect to claims 1, 3, 16, 18, and 33 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 3, 16, 18, and 33 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1, 3-5, 13-16, 18-20, 28-31, 33-35, 43-45 are allowed.
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art of record (US 6348971 to Owa et al) teaches a method for determining and selecting an optimum printer for each document, or each page of a document. For example, color pages of a document is routed to a color printer, and wherein monochrome pages of a document is routed to a black and white printer, however, the examiner fails to find any relevant prior art reference including the cited prior art of record (US 6348971) that teach and/or suggest: "wherein said image processing apparatus further comprises judging means for judging whether or not each of the image data of said group belongs to said first printing attribute after said first image processing means have executed the image process on all the image data of said group, and image process re-executing means for determining that each of the image data belongs to said second printing

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attribute and causing said second image processing means to again execute the image process on the each of the image data when a result of the judgment by said judging means is negative, and wherein said output means outputs the image data on which said image processes have been executed by said first image processing means and said second image processing means, to said selected two image forming apparatuses”, which can be found in independent claims 1, 16, and 31.

- The cited prior art of record (US 6348971 to Owa et al) teaches a method for determining and selecting an optimum printer for each document, or each page of a document. For example, color pages of a document is routed to a color printer, and wherein monochrome pages of a document is routed to a black and white printer, however, the examiner fails to find any relevant prior art reference including the cited prior art of record (US 6348971) that teach and/or suggest: “wherein said image processing apparatus further comprises judging means for judging whether or not each of the image data of said group belongs to said first printing attribute after said first image processing means have executed the image process on all the image data of said group, first image process re-executing means for determining that each of the image data belongs to said first printing attribute and causing said second image processing means to again execute the image process on the each of the image data when a result of the judgment by said judgment is affirmative, the second image process re-executing means for determining that each of the image data belongs to said second printing attribute and causing said third image processing means to again execute the image process on the each of the image data when a result of the judgment means is negative, and wherein said output means outputs the image data on which said image processes have been executed by said second image processing means and said third processing means, to said selected at least two image forming apparatuses, respectively”, which can be found in independent claims 3, 18, and 33.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

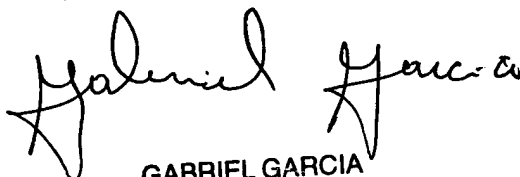
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (571) 2727439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER